

SIEC Briefing Paper on Washington State Patrol Radio and Equipment Acquisition

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Description

The Washington State Patrol is seeking authorization from the SIEC to acquire 1,340 radios and several gateway devices. The total estimated cost of this acquisition is \$5,113,480 plus the costs associated with installation of the equipment.

The 1,340 radios will be used to replace radios that are currently being used by field personal. Included in this number are 940 mobile radios and 400 portable radios. These radios will be replacing units that were purchased in the 1985 timeframe; the average age of the radio being replaced is 15+ years. The radio portion of this acquisition is \$4,947,596 (plus installation).

The Patrol is also seeking authorization to purchase and install interoperable gateway devices, such as the ones outlined in the SIEC Interim Plan. These devices will allow for cross-band communications within the districts that they will be placed in. The actual number of devices is unknown, as is the actual brand, as the Patrol will be working with the SIEC Advisory Committee to determine the best technology available at the time of the purchase. The gateway devices represent \$165,884 of this acquisition (plus installation).

Recommendations to the Committee

- Staff recommends that this acquisition be approved.
- Due to the nature of this acquisition and the risk factors associated with not moving quickly with the radio portion of this acquisition, staff recommends to the Washington State Patrol that they proceed with all deliberate speed.

Status

- The total amount of this acquisition exceeds the delegated authority of the Washington State Patrol.
- As this appears to be a "low risk" project, the Director of DIS can approve this purchase.

Issues

- The total expenditure will be \$5,113,480 plus installation charges. All of the funds will be coming from the Department of Homeland Security, 20-percent set aside for state government.
- The Washington State Patrol is experiencing an alarming failure rate with the radios that they currently have. The radios are non-repairable and are no longer being supported by the manufacturer.
- Without this acquisition for radios the Patrol will not have enough workable radios to support their fleet on the roadways.
- Failing radios could easily jeopardize a trooper's life.
- The radios being purchased will be Project-25 upgradeable; however will be used in the analog mode until such time as the state might decide to use the Project-25 standard. The upgrade will be a "flash" upgrade that will be performed should it be required in the radio shop of the Patrol.
- Although the Washington State Patrol will be purchasing radios that will be VHF, and the state plan has not been written, it appears clear that due to the nature of the Patrol's constituency that they would remain in this frequency band. (Most rural jurisdictions use

VHF as their law enforcement frequencies. Additionally, the State Interim Plan identified three VHF frequencies that the Patrol will need to use for the foreseeable future.)

- Gateway devices will be purchased with the recommendation of the SIEC Advisory Working Group.
- The SIEC Advisory Working Group will recommend to the Patrol locations for deployment to best utilize this new technology to assist statewide interoperability.

Background

The Washington State Patrol has been attempting to replace their older radios for the last two biennia. Unfortunately, the radios are now failing at an alarming rate that the Patrol has no alternative other than replacement. As there is not an established replacement cycle for radio equipment, the Patrol is now requiring a major acquisition of radio equipment. With the purchase outlined above, all of the radios that the Patrol uses in their fleet will be five years old or newer.